

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flight information system comprising:
a collection system including:
a collector for receiving flight information messages in a plurality of formats, and
a translator for converting flight information messages in the plurality of formats received by the data collector into flight information in a common format; and
a distribution system for selectively sending converted flight information to a customer.
2. The flight information system of claim 1, wherein the distribution system includes a file generator for generating a notification file containing a portion of the flight information as specified in a customer profile, the distribution system being configured to send the file generated by the file generator to the customer.
3. The flight information system of claim 1, further comprising:
a data storage system having flight information received by the data collector and converted by the translator stored therein.
4. The flight information system of claim 1, further comprising:
a tracking system having a record of flight information received by the data collector.
5. The flight information system of claim 1, further comprising:
an error system for storing a record of errors detected in flight information received and for processing the detected errors.
6. A collection system for collecting flight information from a plurality of suppliers, the collection system comprising:
a collector for receiving flight information message in a plurality of formats;

a translator for converting flight information messages in the plurality of formats received by the data collector into flight information in a common format.

7. The collection system of claim 6, wherein the collector includes a push information collector configured to receive flight information messages from the plurality of suppliers.

8. The collection system of claim 6, wherein the collector includes a pull information collector configured to periodically request and receive flight information messages from the plurality of suppliers.

9. The collection system of claim 6, further comprising:
an authentication system for verifying flight information received by the collector was received from a valid supplier.

10. The collection system of claim 9, wherein the authentication system verifies flight information messages based upon a supplier profile which designates at least one acceptable flight information message format for each of the plurality of suppliers.

11. The collection system of claim 6, further comprising:
a validation system for evaluating the syntax of the flight information messages received by the collector.

12. The collection system of claim 6, further comprising:
a validation system for evaluating the content of the flight information messages received by the data collector.

13. The collection system of claim 6, wherein the collection system is adapted to update a storage system with flight information received by the collector.

14. The collection system of claim 6, wherein the collection system is adapted to record flight information received to a transaction log.
15. A distribution system for distributing flight information to a plurality of customers, the distribution system comprising:
 - a plurality of customer profiles, each customer profile storing a list of flight information requested by one of the plurality of customers;
 - a file generator for generating a notification file of flight information for each of the plurality of customers based upon the customer profile corresponding to each of the plurality of customers; and
 - a data distributor for selectively sending the notification files generated to the plurality of customers.
16. The distribution system of claim 15, wherein the file generator is configured to access flight information by accessing a data storage system which stores flight information.
17. The distribution system of claim 15, wherein the plurality of customer profiles includes at least one designated file format for each of the plurality of customers.
18. The distribution system of claim 17, wherein the file generator is configured to generate the file for each of the plurality of customers in one of the respective file format included in the plurality of customer profiles.
19. A method of collecting flight information from a plurality of suppliers, the method comprising:
 - receiving flight information messages in a plurality of formats from the plurality of suppliers; and
 - translating the flight information messages received in the plurality of formats into a common format.
20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

authenticating flight information received based upon a supplier profile which designates at least one acceptable format of flight information message for each of the plurality of suppliers.

21. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
validating flight information received including at least one of validating syntax and validating content of flight information received.
22. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
storing translated flight information in a storage system.
23. The method of claim 19, further comprising:
storing a record of flight information received to a transaction log.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein storing a record of flight information received to a transaction log includes forwarding at least a portion of the transaction log to at least one of a billing system, a market analysis system, and a customer support system.
25. A method of distributing flight information to a plurality of customers, the method comprising:
providing a customer profile for each of the plurality of customers;
identifying a change to flight information stored in a storage system;
generating a notification file for each of the plurality of customers based upon the change to the flight information and the customer profiles; and
selectively sending the notification files generated to the plurality of customers.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein providing a customer profile for each of the plurality of customers includes providing a designated format for the notification files for each of the plurality of customers.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein generating a file for each of the plurality of customers includes generating the notification file in the format provided in the customer profile.
28. The method of claim 25, wherein selectively sending the notification files generated to the plurality of customers includes sending the generated notification files to the plurality of customers per the customer profiles.
29. A business method for providing flight information to a customer, the method comprising:
- defining a customer profile including a financial model and a list of flight information requested by the customer under the financial model;
 - receiving flight information in a plurality of formats from a plurality of suppliers;
 - translating the flight information received in a plurality of formats to a common format;
 - distributing translated flight information to the customer based upon the customer profile;
 - tracking flight information distributed; and
 - billing the customer based upon the financial model and the flight information tracked.
30. The business method of claim 29, wherein the financial model includes a service level and a price for the service level.
31. The business method of claim 30, wherein the service level specifies the type and amount of flight information to be distributed to the customer.
32. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for collecting flight information comprising:
- receiving flight information in a plurality of formats from a plurality of suppliers;

translating the flight information received in the plurality of formats to a common format; and
storing the flight information in the common format to a data storage system.